

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE REVIEW



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Bulletin #40: Press report: Ukraine says will halt Kursk offensive

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Ukraine says will halt Kursk offensive once Russia accepts a ‘just peace’

5–6 minutes

War in Ukraine

Ukraine will stop its cross-border raids in Russia’s Kursk region once Moscow agrees to a “just peace”, the country’s foreign ministry said Tuesday, adding that Kyiv is “not interested in taking over” Russian territory. Earlier, Ukraine said it was restricting the movement of civilians close to the border in the northern Sumy region as its forces pressed on with a lightning incursion that has caused more than 100,000 civilians to flee their homes in Russia. Follow our live coverage for the latest updates.



Ukrainian soldiers at the controls of an armoured military vehicle in the Sumy region, near the border with Russia on August 12, 2024. © Roman Pilipey, AFP

Summary:

- [Ukraine](#) is **not interested in taking over Russian territory**, the foreign ministry told a press conference in [Kyiv](#), adding: "The sooner [Russia](#) agrees to **restore a just peace** (...) the sooner the raids by the Ukrainian defence forces into Russia will stop."
- Ukraine's general staff earlier **announced restrictions on the movement of civilians along the border with Russia in the northern Sumy region** amid its cross-border offensive in Russia's neighbouring Kursk region.
- **Russia launched 38 attack drones and two Iskander-M ballistic missiles at Ukraine overnight**, Ukraine's air force said on Tuesday. Russia's defence ministry said its air defence units destroyed 12 Ukrainian drones over the Kursk region.
- Ukraine's top military commander claimed on Monday that his **forces controlled 1,000 square kilometers (386 square miles) of Russian territory in Kursk region**, the first time a Ukrainian military official has publicly commented on the gains of Kyiv's [lightning incursion](#).

Yesterday's key developments:

- The United States is deeply concerned by reports that **Iran is planning to deliver hundreds of ballistic missiles to Russia**, State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters on Monday. Patel warned of a "severe" US response if Iran moves forward with the transfer.
- The governor of [Russia](#)'s Kursk region told President [Vladimir Putin](#) on Monday that **121,000 people have left or been evacuated from the front-line zone** since Ukrainian troops and armour crossed the border early last week. Governor Alexei Smirnov said [Ukraine](#) **now controls 28 settlements in the border province** and that [Kyiv](#)'s forces have advanced 12km (7.4 miles) into Russian territory.
- Ukrainians poured into the Kursk region from several directions early on on August 6, quickly overwhelming checkpoints and fortifications manned by lightly armed border guards and infantry along the 245km (152-mile) shared frontier.

(FRANCE 24 with AFP, AP, Reuters)